

the thought was dismissed as absurd, and desperate attempts were made to place it among the birds likely to be met far out at sea. As nothing plausible suggested itself, I obtained the Captain's approval and rushed down for my gun. When I returned, the bird had shifted over to the other side of the boat. As it dropped to my shot it was evident that it was a nightjar.

In Bombay we identified the bird as a Jungle Nightjar, *Caprimulgus indicus*, but it differed from *hazarae* Whistler & Kinnear (Abbottabad, Hazara, Himalayas) and appeared to be *C. i. jotaka* Temm. & Schl. (type locality: Japan). In the absence of material for comparison, the specimen (♂, wing 214) was sent to the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, where Mr. Bond has kindly confirmed that it is 'a good example of *jotaka*'.

This race is a well known migrant from Japan and China to the Malay Peninsula and further east, but this is the first record from the Andamans, in fact the first record from India.

75, ABDUL REHMAN STREET,
BOMBAY-3,

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

June 25, 1970.

9. GREYHEADED MYNA, *STURNUS MALABARICUS* (GMELIN) IN KUTCH

I saw the Greyheaded Myna for the first time in Kutch on 31st December, 1969. Four of these birds alighted on the bare twigs of a small tree in the Vijaya Vilas Plantation (Mandvi) so close to me that I did not even have to use my field glasses to observe them during the few moments they stayed there before flying on to a banyan tree nearby.

There is no specific mention of its distribution or occurrence in the BIRDS OF SAURASHTRA (R. S. Dharmakumarsinhji), however, I happened to see a pair of these Mynas busy carrying nesting materials into a hole in a casuarina tree at Wankaner in July 1967. One bird (what appeared to me to be the female of the pair) had, in contrast to its partner, a rather pale coloured plumage. Except for the head, neck and the primaries along with tail feathers which were grey, it was pale grey all over the rest of its body with a diffusion of a faint ferruginous wash particularly noticeable under the wings, on the breast and downwards to the abdomen. This of course is not very unusual for abnormally coloured individuals are sometimes to be seen in this species.

I may also mention here that I observed a Forest Wagtail *Motacilla indica* Gmelin once again in Kutch. It was seen by me at Vijaya Vilas on 31st December 1969. My first observation of this wagtail in this district was at Bhuj in 1967 (*JBNHS* 65 (1):225).

BHUJ, KUTCH,
January 19, 1970.

HIMMATSINHJI

10. NOTES ON THE WHITE-EYE (*ZOSTEROPS PALPEBROSA*)
AND WHITEBREASTED KINGFISHER
(*HALCYON SMYRNENSIS*)

Last December I had an opportunity of exploring the mangrove flats near Jamnagar along the Gulf of Kutch and found white-eyes to be very plentiful and confiding. This reminded me of a note appearing in Ticehurst's BIRDS OF SIND [*Ibis* 1923:22-23] of an isolated colony in mangroves off Karachi (W. Pakistan). It seems probable that White-eyes affect mangrove forests all along the west and as these extend to Karachi the little bird had an uninterrupted range which later was disturbed by the destruction of mangroves by man. It may be interesting to compare Karachi specimens with those from mangrove forests near Bombay on the one hand, and with specimens from the mangroves of Jamnagar as well as of other parts of coastal Saurashtra and Gujarat.

White-eyes seem to go fairly high in the Himalayas. I have seen at over 7,500 ft. a number of White-eyes at Vashishta near Manali, both in cultivation and in Oak forests. This may well be an altitudinal record for this little bird.

I have always considered the Whitebreasted Kingfisher as a plains bird possibly going up some of the major valleys to about 3,000' and it was therefore a surprise to have one advertising its territory at over 7,500 ft. in Oak and spruce forest just above the terraced cultivation of Vashishta Village.

MANALI,
KULU VALLEY,
HIMACHAL PRADESH,
May 11, 1970.

LAVKUMAR J. KHACHER